DETECTION OF CIGUATOXIC FISH BY USING THE BINDING PROPERTY OF CIGUATOXINS TO VOLTAGE-DEPENDANT SODIUM CHANNELS. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum 34(3) 576. 1994*:- Binding studies indicate that CTX (coded -1B), the principal toxin isolated from moray eel viscera and CTX-4B (or GT-4B) isolated from wild dinoflagellate, *Gambierdiscua toxicus*, competitively inhibit binding of the brevetoxin (3H)-PbTx-3 to rat brain membranes. Affinity of CTX-1B is around 30 times higher than that of PbTx-3 while CTX-4B has around the same affinity as the brevetoxin. Results confirm that the two toxins act at the voltage dependant sodium channel of rat brain membranes. Experiments on minor toxins isolated from ciguatoxic material are underway. Preliminary results indicate a common property of the compounds to inhibit the binding of PbTx- 3. This property is used to evaluate the ciguatoxicity of hazardous fish. A rapid extraction procedure and a routine binding assay have been established.

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EVALUATION OF INTRAVENOUS MANNITOL FOR TREATMENT OF ACUTE CIGUATERA FISH POISONING. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum 34(3): 576. 1994*:– The Ciguatera Double Blind Study is an investigator-initiated, grant supported, multicenter, randomized, controlled trial which is designed to: 1) investigate the efficacy of intravenous 20% mannitol in comparison to a placebo (intravenous 5% dextrose in water) for treatment of acute ciguatera fish poisoning; 2) determine the response time to treatment; and 3) determine relapse rate 48hrs post treatment. Mannitol and the 5% dextrose were randomly assigned to patients who presented with ciguatera fish poisoning to 1 of 4 hospitals. Medical treatment was provided through a protocol. Patients response was monitored at 10min, 30min and 2.5hr after therapy was begun. Patient followup was done for 48hr after the treatment was given.

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